GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2597
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF WILD ANIMALS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides compensation to the families of the victims of wild animals including elephants who destroy the crops and kill the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the number of such incidents which came to notice of the Government during the last three years and current year, till-date, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the amount of compensation paid or proposed to be paid to the families of persons killed in such incidents during the said period, State-wise and Case-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the lives of people from animals` attacks and to keep the animals in their habitats?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b)The Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments for payment of ex-gratia relief to the victims of depredation by wild animals.The assistance is provided under three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant.The criteria for payment of ex-gratia relief are fixed by the concerned State Governments and vary from State to State. However, the Central Government has requested the State Government for increasing the amount of ex-gratia payment in case of death or permanent incapacitation of any person by a wild animal to Rs. 1 lakh.

(c)The details of cases of depredation by wild animals are neither compiled nor collated at the Central Government level as these cases are not generally reported to the Central Government.

(d)Funds for ex-gratia relief are provided by the Central Government on the basis of annual plans of operation submitted by the State Governments under different schemes.Details regarding the financialassistance provided by the Central Government to different States are given in Annexure-I.

(e)Steps usually taken by the State Forest Departments for mitigation of conflict between the wild animals and human-beings are as follows:

- Erecting barriers (trenches, electric fencing etc.) to stop straying of wild animals into agricultural fields, villages and other sensitive areas.

- Distributing crackers, search lights etc. among the villagers for chasing away wild animals from agricultural fields.

- Engaging special wildlife squads in strategic locations for helping people in driving wild animals back into forests.

- Undertaking habitat-development works for wild animals within forests.

- Educating the people to live in harmony with wild animals.

- Undertaking eco-development works in villages situated on the fringe of forests for reducing their dependence on forests for firewood, fodder and grazing of cattle.

- Paying ex-gratia relief to the affected people for loss of human life, crop and houses.